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Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for September 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Further concentrated effort in line with Area policy was made to reduce overtime work.

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

One compiler has been detached for indefinite duty in another office. This will affect our capability to produce maps and will leave an important geographical area - India, Pakistan, Afghanistan - uncovered.

USSR - SATELLITES BRANCH

After a half year's respite from requests for carto-mathematical support, in September two requests for such support were received and completed, one each from OSI and the NIPC. This suggests that this kind of support will continue to be asked of the Division and that we continue to allow for this, particularly in regard to training a compiler to replace [redacted] who has in the past borne responsibility for this type of support.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Geography Division feels that the interests of the Geographic AReа could be served to better advantage by a modification of the new order regarding Preparation of Mapping Intelligence Requirements, dated 22 September. It now appears that the same objectives could be more readily attained by allowing each division to issue its own mapping intelligence requirements and requiring mutual coordination by the issuing division with the other two divisions prior to issuance. It is impolitic to subject personnel of one division in an area of mutual interest to the "pocket veto" prerogatives of another. Moreover, it seems to countermand the stated functions of St/I in the coordination of requirements for all divisions of ORR.

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In response to a Department of State inquiry to the AD/RR regarding the statements on the Ecuador-Peru boundary in our report on International Boundaries in Latin America, the entire boundary dispute was reviewed by [redacted] On the basis of the findings, a defense was made in person to the Peru and Ecuador Desk Officers of State, and an interesting and not immediately reconcilable discrepancy in points of view was discovered. The problem centers on whether USAF aerial photography taken between 1943 and 1946, with resultant map, is reliable. Agency files indicate that the mission was successfully completed with photography adequate to determine major land forms, while State has been acting on the assumption the

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

photography was not adequate for that purpose. They are investigating the foundation for such an assumption, after which a meeting will be held to discuss the situation further.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA BRANCH

Domestic Procurement "coordinated" a procurement request by borrowing a GG/N memo on procurement of Afghan-USSR boundary maps as a basis for a new requirement. [redacted] has been briefed by [redacted] 25X1A6a 25X1A9a

An Air Attache returning from Cairo reported he had received a Navy E and E on the Eastern Mediterranean early in the summer - prior to the burning spree in July. A search of Agency holdings failed to uncover any such study. At the present time this material is apparently received on a hit and miss basis. It is suggested that a channel for receiving E and E publications of other government agencies would benefit D/GG.

25X1A9a [redacted] ORR/S/TF, recently assigned to [redacted] 25X1A9a was briefed in the Branch. Her interests, both past and present, are with Soviet penetration of the Middle East and Africa. [redacted] an Agency employee of seven years standing, expressed surprise at the interests and capabilities of D/GG. Economic Area personnel, particularly those engaged in research on the Middle East and Africa, are apparently not familiar with D/GG work and the increasing overlap in intelligence interests. Closer working level cooperation could be beneficial to both the G Area and the E Area. 25X1X7

The Branch has seldom found the machine system currently in use in OCR a satisfactory method for recovery of documents. GG/N is currently working closely with OCR personnel in regard to this problem. Examples of requests that were not satisfied have been supplied to OCR along with documents from Branch files that should have appeared on the card runs. OCR personnel were surprised at the material present in the file that did not appear and expressed their appreciation for the cooperation received from D/GG in presenting specific examples of failure of the machine system. It is hoped that in some small way the results of future machine runs may be improved.

Graphics Register showed once again this month that their motion picture collection is, at best, inadequate. They were requested to prepare a list of films on Lebanon from which we could select those possibly having information of value to the Branch. Their list contained 12 films only 2 of which were of even slight interest; many of the remainder were clips of newsreels. The rather shocking part of the story is that they apparently had no idea of sources of additional films.

During a recent briefing, a State Department officer returning to his post in Africa made a suggestion that has relevance to our preparation of information requests in many parts of the world, namely that all such requests be given the lowest possible security classification or sent unclassified, if possible, so that native typists can be used in preparing answers to the requests. If the material is highly classified, the transmission must await the availability of a cleared typist.

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*should be Brooks

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

FAR EAST/PACIFIC BRANCH

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In conversations with personnel of [redacted] it developed that they have never seen any of our UW feasibility studies. Yet these same people are periodically asked by CINCPAC to revise the UW annex to the Theater War Plan and are expected to indicate what personnel assets they have in specific areas. It would seem logical that the studies should be correlated. This is another indication, it is felt, that the so-called "coordinated" approach to UW planning is in need of closer coordination. Perhaps we're not in a position to see the "big picture", but from our level, the situation seems to be a confused one.

The provision of two full pages for maps plus the necessarily lengthy text of Gm-10 will require a modification of the present GM format if the article on the Off shore Islands is to be published in something like its present form. It is recommended that a degree of flexibility be permitted, somewhat in accordance with the dummy format proposed to Chief, D/GG, and that limitation of space not be made an over-riding consideration in determining whether or not a given article is appropriate for issuance as a GM.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

The Major professional problem facing the editors concerns the proposed GM on Population Movements in EastGermany. In its present form, it seems more like an exercise in methodology than a subject for an MR. There is no question, however, as to the value of the technique used and its application to population problems.

Twice during the month the Editor in Chief was requested to comment on suggestions for the revision of methods for documenting research, which seems to indicate that the currently approved methods are not entirely satisfactory. At best, documentation is a meticulous and time-consuming job for analysts, editors, and typists. Any suggestion for simplifying the work deserves serious consideration. D/GG editors have been experimenting in this field for some years, with the full cooperation of the authors, and will continue to do so.

EUROPE BRANCH

It is recommended that the Division set forth its functions and responsibilities in regard to mapping intelligence along the lines of the draft memorandum prepared by this Branch for consideration.

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As evidenced by the request of [redacted] the Economic Area is becoming aware of the need for presenting data for areas lower than the country as a whole. A logical next step for them would be regional studies within a country. It is suggested that we become more active in the field of self-initiated regional studies. Otherwise we will forfeit an important area of research.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

None Reported.

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